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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4327  
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 5858  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 9714  
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY 2682  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 5950  
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG PRIORITY 4374  
RHMFISS/COMUSKOREA J5 SEOUL KOR PRIORITY  
RUACAAA/COMUSKOREA INTEL SEOUL KOR PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/COMUSFK SEOUL KOR PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 000767

SIPDIS

PLEASE PASS TO LAURA SCHEIBE IN EAP/MLS.

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/12/2019  
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KS](#) [BM](#)  
SUBJECT: ROKG STEERING CLEAR OF BURMA POLITICAL  
SENSITIVITIES

REF: SECSTATE 46562

Classified By: A/DCM Joseph Yun. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

¶1. (C) In response to the reftel demarche, ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT) Southeast Asia Director Kim Young-chaе said on May 11 that he would convey to his superiors that the U.S. was urging international pressure on the Burmese government to end the house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi. Director Kim made it very clear, however, that the ROK would encourage improvement in conditions in Burma only by indirect means if at all. The most immediate reason for this is that the Burmese prime minister will be in attendance at a summit commemorating 20 years of Korea-ASEAN relations scheduled for June 1-2 on Jeju island. The ROKG had planned to avoid sensitive issues "from the beginning" in discussions with ASEAN on a joint statement for the event; ASEAN members had evinced similar inclinations. Because the summit is meant to be a celebration, Kim said, the timing is not right for raising political issues with the Burmese.  
STANTON